

WASHINGTON.

—Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable—

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1853.

THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE.

We copied from the New York Evening Post, last Saturday, an article announcing the interesting fact that "a passage by the Arctic ocean around the northern continent of America has at last been discovered" by Com. McClure, of the British Navy, who had thus accomplished what the enterprise of two hundred years had failed to do, and thus solved the great "geographical problem." This statement was made on the authority of a brief announcement of the British Admiralty, and the Post adds some particulars of the course of Com. McClure's voyage, explanatory of its triumphant result. Relying on the general accuracy of the Post, we took the particulars for granted without examination; but, having our attention called to them by a friend curious in such matters, they certainly present the strangest tissue of errors and contradictions which we have lately met with. This may be said, however, without impugning the main fact stated, of Com. McClure's success in "solving the problem." He may have done so, but not in the circumstances related in the Post are correct. The account in the Post says that "McClure sailed from Davis's straits, on the east, through the great Arctic ocean, to near Behring's straits on the west," and he is left "on the coast of Asia, near the outlet of Behring's straits," whereas Com. McClure commenced his polar voyage through Behring's straits, and to "solve the problem" he must have gone east instead of west. If the Post will compare its statement with any recent map of the polar regions, it will perceive the discrepancies to which we refer. It is possible that when the Admiralty account comes to hand it will explain present contradictions and make the matter clear. We will add here, however, from authentic data, a summary of McClure's voyage up to the time he was heard from previous to this Admiralty account.

Commander McClure, of the *Investigator*, sailed on the 10th of January, 1850. He experienced heavy gales during five weeks off Cape Horn, and reached Honolulu on the 1st of July, 1850. After replacing sails and completing provisions for three years from the 1st of September in that year, he sailed on the morning of the 4th, and shaped his course direct for the Aleutian Islands, passing them in 172° 40' W.; he got through Behring's strait on the 27th and anchored in Kotzebue sound (lat. 66° 34' N., long. 168° W.) on the 28th of July, which is the date of the last communication from him prior to his entering the ice. He had then seen nothing of the Enterprise, and determined not to lose a moment by waiting off Cape Lisburne, (the rendezvous named,) but to proceed northward immediately.

The *Investigator* was fallen in with by the Herald on the 31st of July, off Point Hope, and again on the 5th of August by the Plover, off the Sea Horse Islands, in latitude 70° 44' north, and longitude 159° 52' west, when she was standing to the north under a press of sail.

Nothing further was heard of Com. McClure until the recent return of Capt. Ingfield from Barrow straits, but the course he intended to pursue was marked out in his letter to the Admiralty dated "At Sea, (lat. 51° 20' N., long. 172° 35' W.) 20th July, 1850." In this he says:

"After passing Cape Lisburne, it is my intention to keep in the open water, which, from the different reports that I have read, appears about this season of the year, to make between the American coast and the main pack as far to the eastward as the 130th meridian, unless a favorable opening should earlier appear in the ice, which would lead me to infer that I might push more directly for Banks's Land, which I think is of the utmost importance to examine."

But he adds: "Should difficulties apparently insurmountable encompass our progress so as to render it a matter of doubt whether the vessel could be extricated, I should deem it expedient in that case not to hazard the lives of those entrusted to my charge after the winter of 1852, but in the ensuing spring quit the vessel with sledges and boats, and make the best of our way either to Pond's Bay, Leopold Harbor, the Mackenzie, or for the Whalers, according to circumstances."

By the last accounts it appears that a letter has been received from Com. McClure, dated "Bay of Mercy, Baring's Island, April, 1853." We learn from this that during the winter of 1850-51 his vessel wintered in the pack. In July, 1851, he states, "such a body of ice came down upon us with a strong east wind, and set the vessel so far to the south that we determined to attempt a passage by the east end of the cliffs of Banks's Land, forming the north entrance of the large island under which we now are." Baring's Island is probably to the south of Banks's Land, and the "north entrance" between them may be "the frozen waters called the Prince of Wales strait" through which the *Investigator* could not pass.

It seems, then, that Com. McClure has been in the Bay of Mercy since the summer of 1851, unable to move the *Investigator* either to the eastward or to the westward, or in any other direction. This would at least "render it a matter of doubt whether the vessel could be extricated," in which case, as indicated in his letter of July 20, 1850, in the spring of 1853 he would feel it his duty to "quit the vessel with sledges and boats" and make the best of his way to some known point, in the hope of meeting relief. If such an abandonment has actually taken place, the *Investigator* has not made "the Northwest Passage."

Just so, undoubtedly; and the fellow who says it is a successful student of humanity.

"Whether people see any beauty in sunrise depends a great deal on 'surrounding circumstances.' The poet, with a fat wallet, looks upon it as 'the yellow over from which will pour a golden day.' The poor devil who carries a load, on the contrary, sees in it a forerunner of a hard day's work, and a coup de soleil. With gentlemen of the latter persuasion sunrise is not a popular institution, and never will be. It is hard to be sentimental with fifty pounds of mortar on your back."

REFERENCE OF GOOD BOOKS.—"If," said Daniel Webster to a friend, "religion books are not widely circulated among the masses in the country, and the people do not become religious, I do not know what is to become of us as a nation." There is something in this sentence for solemn reflection on the part of every patriot and every Christian. If God and His Word are not in our midst, the devil will be; and if the devil is in our midst, and misery, corruption and darkness, will reign without mitigation and without end.

DEATH OF A CHILD.—On Saturday last a little girl, about five years of age, daughter of Mr. J. H. Webster, of Cambridge, (Mass.) was burnt in a most distressing manner, so as to cause its death on Sunday noon. It is supposed that her clothes caught from some friction matches which were found on the floor, and with which it is presumed she had been playing.

THE TEXAS DEBT.

Since we published, a few days ago, an extract from Attorney General CUSHING's opinion in regard to the claims of the Texas creditors the opinion has been given at large in the *Union*. We have not room for the argument with which the Attorney General maintains the various points of his opinion; but, as of interest to some of our readers, we give the conclusions at which he arrives in relation to the claims of the creditors on the \$5,000,000 reserved by the United States to meet said claims:

The claims to be released, then, are—
1. Bonds or certificates of stock, not all evidences of indebtedness, but bonds or certificates of stock. This excludes not only arrangers, if any, due for supplies or services, or any other unliquidated debt, but also the circulating notes of the 9th June, 1837.

Bonds and certificates of stock are especially known and expressed in the laws of Texas giving authority for their issue, and are clearly distinguished from these treasury notes, commonly called red-backs, of the denomination of one dollar, and so on, not exceeding one thousand dollars each, issued and re-issued by the Government, and from all other evidences of indebtedness.

Indeed, the treasury notes in question, instead of being themselves certificates of stock, were convertible into certificates of stock, and therefore must have been things of a different character. And the word "bond" has an established legal meaning, which it is impossible to confound with "promissory notes."

The indebtedness to be released must be of bonds or certificates of stock. I conclude, therefore—

1. The issues under the act of June 7th, 1837, estimated as such, ending on the 1st of July, 1850, principal and interest, \$1,051,590.

2. Outstanding issues, as above, under the acts of November 18, 1839; May 15, 1839; January 22, 1839; and January 14, 1840, \$2,582,902.

3. Outstanding issues of certificates of stock of ten per cent. consolidated fund, by the act of February 5th, 1840, \$1,028,930.

4. Outstanding issues of eight per cent. bonds, under the act of February 5th, 1840, \$4,172,908.

These particular sums amount, in all, to \$7,836,356 on the 1st of July, 1850; to which is to be added the interest which may have since accrued; the said amount having, however, been reduced to \$3,798,705, according to the table adopted by the State of Texas.

To exclude all the indebtedness of Texas described in the report of the auditor as "audited drafts," and also the new issues under the act of March 20th, 1848, the nature of which does not appear, but which seems to be recognized by all parties as not being of bonds or certificates of stock within the purview of the act of Congress.

I feel constrained, also, as already intimated, to exclude the promissory notes, mostly without interest, issued under the act of June 9th, 1837, in all the form and similitude of a common bank bill. I am unable to regard this paper as either bonds or certificates of stock.

THE RALEIGH REGISTER.

This veteran and consistent republican journal completed its fifty-fourth year on the 19th instant. It is published by the worthy grandson of the original founder, the late JOSEPH GALE, and still honorably upholds the principles of virtue, benevolence, and patriotism which it received at its birth from that founder as an emanation of his own nature. On remarking on his paper's anniversary, the editor says: "No paper in this State has existed so long, and none in the United States has remained for such a time under the direction of the same name. Assuming it ourselves at a period of youth and inexperience, we have been cheered and sustained by the kind indulgence and activity of many friends, until now the 'Register' is on a firmer basis than it has ever been."

"N. of Arkansas," a correspondent of the New York Spirit of the Times, whose signature always gives promise of something interesting, is a judge of men as well as of horses, and of both a match for any one. In a late letter we find the annexed passage. We copy it because it pays a just tribute to a deceased worthy Whig and a deserved compliment to a living noble Democrat:

"MR. DEAR P.: Arkansas has lost one of her most useful and distinguished sons in the person of THOMAS W. NORTON, who recently died in your city. Offices of trust and honor had been again and again conferred on him, and he had faithfully and ably filled them all. He was the only Whig Arkansas ever sent to Congress. He leaves a large family. One of his sons is, I believe, at this time a cadet at West Point, and in connection with his appointment I would mention the manner of it, as it reflects much credit on one who is living. Col. Norton, in 1848, was opposed by R. W. JOHNSON, and by him defeated for a seat in Congress. Col. Johnson was at the time a member from Arkansas, and in his gift a caudle—Arkansas being entitled to one. Before bestowing it a rumor reached him that Col. Norton was dead, and he at once enclosed the appointment to Col. N.'s eldest son. It was a noble act, coming, as it did, from a political opponent; but it was in keeping with Bob Johnson, who is as true-hearted, generous a man as lives."

COL. FREMONT.—The St. Louis Democrat announces that Col. FREMONT has sufficiently recovered from his indisposition to enable him to resume his winter expedition over the central route to the Pacific. He left St. Louis on the 15th to join his company at Old Camp Mission, at which place they were camping. His party consists of twenty-one men, ten of whom are Delaware Indians. Some of these Indians have been with Col. Fremont on previous expeditions. They are picked men of his tribe, and most skillful hunters. A daguerrean artist goes with the party, who will take sketches of every thing worthy to be represented along the route.

THE CAMANCHOS of Western Texas have exhausted their means of subsistence, and being reduced to a desperate and starving condition, are now professing to the agents of the United States Government their willingness to settle permanently near Fort Chadbourne and cultivate the soil, if the Government will furnish them with implements and teachers and guarantee them the permanent possession of the lands they may improve. All the various bands of the nation are to meet at the above named fort in November next, by appointment of Maj. Neighbors, with whom they will probably make some sort of a treaty. The San Antonio Ledger says:

"The buffalo have entirely disappeared and nearly all species of game, and the poor Indian is now compelled to glean a scanty subsistence from wild fruits. They have begun to beg and steal, and are now in the prairie, while their hunger leads them to seize with avidity and devour the veriest offal flung from the forts."

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.—The Baltimore American states that the Board of Directors of this Company, in pursuance of the project of laying a second track between Baltimore and Piedmont, have decided to apply to the City Council to endorse the bonds of the company for five millions of dollars. Application will also be made to the Mayor to call an extra session of the Council to act on the subject, in order that an early decision may be arrived at. It will be necessary to obtain an act from the Legislature, authorizing the city to endorse the bonds, before the transaction can be perfected.

APPLICATION OF ELECTRICITY TO WARLIKE PURPOSES.—The discoveries during the past age in relation to the properties of electricity, and the uses to which it can be applied, have created quite a revolution in many of the arts and pursuits of peace. It is now about to be applied to the purposes of war. It is stated that during the field day at Olmito on the 25th, at which the Emperors of Russia and Austria were present, a sham fight on a grand scale, the siege of the citadel, including the application of electricity on the most recently approved principles of union and combination, were practiced. A Vienna paper describes three omnibus-looking vehicles which were in the camp, each containing a complete electric telegraph apparatus, with a contrivance for laying an insulated wire along the ground by the mere locomotion of the vehicle, the wire being so protected as to remain uninjured by the pressure of the heaviest artillery passing over it. By this means orders are to be instantaneously conveyed from the Emperor's station and that of the chief commanders to troops at almost any distance on the field of the manoeuvres.

FRANCE AND BELGIUM.

Our Paris Correspondent closes a recent letter with the subjoined speculations. We are not sufficient adepts in divination to say how far his opinions are founded in reason, but we give them as those of an astute, careful, and unbiased observer:

"The concluding remark of the *Independence Belge*, in reference to the movement of America in the Maritime Convention, was suggested by a thought utterly foreign to Lieut. MAURY and his scientific convention; and it suggests a subject to myself to which I ought to have alluded in my character of faithful reader of the signs of the times some weeks ago. Here is one Power now ranging itself on our side, says the *Independence Belge*. Those words will not be fully understood by American readers generally, who are not to be supposed intimately acquainted with European politics. It shows how persisting, prevalent, and ever-present is the idea, in Belgium and over all Europe, that attributes to the Emperor of France, notwithstanding his repeated assertion that 'the empire is peace,' designs hostile to the independence of Belgium. I have on several occasions during the last three years alluded to this subject in my letters to the *Intelligencer*, stating the general argument and the corroboration afforded by recent facts, which induce me to join with those who believe the annexation of Savoy, Belgium, and the Prussian provinces on the Rhine to be the fixed policy of Napoleon III, which circumstances may compel him to adjourn for a moment, from which he may be temporarily diverted, but which he will never abandon. And I believe, if he lives five years more, he will have accomplished his purpose, and France will once more have assumed what Frenchmen are fond of calling its 'natural boundaries.' The recent marriage of the Duke of BRANCA, heir apparent to the Belgian throne, with an Austrian princess, was dictated by the parties on both sides of the Rhine by these apprehensions of French aggression. This was quite evident to those who followed closely the incidents of that royal alliance. That in France it was so considered, too, is equally clear. The tone of the semi-official journals in Paris, the absence of the French Minister from the marriage fete at Brussels, showed at once the thought and the discontent of his Imperial Majesty of France. But another incident occurred about the same time which should have been earlier noted by me as symptomatic of the presumed French policy toward Belgium. The political press of France is now so closely watched and so severely controlled that, to a greater extent perhaps than would have been just at any previous period since the first empire, Government may be held responsible for all its productions. It so often forbids publication or visits with punishment articles and essays which have been inadvertently allowed, that all which are published and which escape governmental censure may be held to be approved. The Government is thus rightfully considered as having, if not directly inspired and instigated, at least as approving a pamphlet which was published in Paris on Belgium and the Austrian marriage; and especially a violent article in the semi-official *Constitutionnel* laudatory of the pamphlet and of its political views. In these impudent and outrageous productions the expediency of Belgian annexation was openly discussed, and the Austrian marriage reprobated as being in fact a sort of defiance thrown in the face of France. Pamphlet and newspaper escaped governmental animadversion. The writer of the former signed himself 'a Belgian,' but the signature deceived no one; the work bore on its face plain evidence of its French origin. I have myself no doubt whatever that the pamphlet and the newspaper comment on it were both inspired, and that they were thrown out as feelers and leaders intended to familiarize the public mind with the idea of Belgian annexation, and gradually prepare the way for that event when circumstances shall be rendered more propitious for its consummation than they are at present. To make them so is the constant aim of French policy; and, in fact, there is no enterprise in which the Emperor could engage that would more enthusiastically and generally carry with him the French nation. It is considered a national policy in its most eminent degree, and its realization would tend to conciliate to his dynasty many spirits that will never cease to be unquiet and revolutionary till Napoleon III. shall have confirmed his title to the throne by some signal act identifying him personally with the glory and grandeur of France. Besides these considerations, which would be equally operative upon any ruler of France, he has the perspective of dynasty, there are others readily occurring to all who are familiar with French history which give to this policy the force of an imperative necessity to a *Dynastic*."

BURNING OF A MAIL CAR.—The Cleveland "Plaindealer" gives the following particulars of the recent loss of a portion of the Eastern Mail, while on its way westward, by the burning of a car which accidentally took fire between Cleveland and Cincinnati:

"The car on which the late mail was burnt was a common freight car, open only at the sides. When it was found to be on fire, it being in the night and the train in rapid motion, there was no way of communicating the fact to the conductor or the engineer except by the cry 'fire,' and the noise of the cars and machinery in this case rendered that mode ineffectual. For miles the train sped on its fiery way amid the solitude and darkness of night, until the flames bursting out, lit up the scene around and the discovery was made by the brakemen. It did not want but a few minutes with a fire kindled in such combustible, there were several sacks of feathers in the car, fanned by such a breeze as the speed of the train would naturally make, to ignite the whole contents to a glowing heat. When the train finally stopped the flames from the burning car were some twenty feet high, lighting up the country for miles around. The flames occupied the side apertures, and there was no ingress except through the ends, which were battered in as soon as they could be, and what was left unconsumed was taken out and extinguished as soon as possible. Of the baggage, out of some sixty trunks, scarcely a whole one was found. The mail shared a similar fate. Not a mail bag, either lock or canvas, was found worth repairing. Of their contents, some eight or ten bushels of the burnt remnants have been sent, and now await, in the hands of the post office, the orders of the Department. It is most of it due at Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis, and other Southern offices. It came mostly from New York city, and included a very heavy foreign mail brought by the Atlantic. A very large portion of the New York matter consists of brand of goods, invoices, notes, drafts, acceptances, &c., and the usual business paper of that large commercial city, which at this season of the year compose the larger portion of its mails west."

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

By the way of Rio Janeiro we have dates from Buenos Ayres to August 22. Gen. URQUIZA had sent a message to the Congress of Santa Fe resigning the office of Provisional Director, in order not to be an obstacle to the acceptance of the constitution by the province of Buenos Ayres and the maintenance of peace. Throughout the remaining provinces peaceful inclinations were manifested. In addition to the rigorous measures against the disturbers of public tranquillity already announced, the Government had dismissed all the office holders who had borne arms during the siege of Buenos Ayres, several foreign money-brokers being included in the number. The Chamber of Justice had been re-organized under the Presidency of Dr. VICENTE ALICIA. In the Legislature a manifesto was being drawn up as a basis for the union of parties, and as a platform for foreign and domestic policy for the future. The financial difficulties continued, and of a loan of \$200,000, which the merchants had promised to the Government, hardly one-half had been furnished.

A HINT FOR HOUSEKEEPERS.—A few drops of carbonate of ammonia, in a small quantity of warm rain water, will prove safe and easy anti-acid, &c., and will change, if carefully applied, discolored spots upon carpets, and indeed all spots, whether produced by acids or alkalis. If one has the misfortune to have a carpet injured by white-wash this will immediately restore it.—*Union Courier*.

A Socialist emigration is on the eve of leaving Europe, to join Messrs. Victor, Constant, and Briand in their philanthropy of Texas. Several artists and writers are among the emigrants.

It is stated that there is soon to be established at Norfolk, (Va.) on an extended scale, a house for the reception of emigrants from Europe, for the purpose of supplying the demand for this description of labor in the interior of Virginia and North Carolina.

EDUCATION IN RUSSIA.

Very little is known in this country of the habits, feelings, and state of civilization of the Russians. We are accustomed to consider them a benighted nation of slaves, inhabiting a country into which the schoolmaster has not yet penetrated; but the following statistical details, drawn from reliable sources, may perhaps give our readers a different impression, or at least enable them to form some idea of the actual state of public instruction in the empire of the Czar:

There are appertaining to the department of the Minister of Public Instruction 6 universities, 1 normal school, 3 lycées, 77 gymnasia, 433 district schools, 1,068 town schools, and 592 private schools; in all, 21,810 establishments for education, under the care of 5,594 teachers, and containing 118,327 students. This is in Russia proper. Russian Poland has besides 1,539 schools of various kinds, frequented by 84,584 students, 183 of which are private institutions; and in the Caucasus are no less than 45 schools, 8 of which are private, with 237 teachers and 3,202 students.

There are 21 theological seminaries belonging to the Greek Church, with 72 teachers and 1,261 students; 14 of the Armenian doctrine, with 45 teachers and 723 students; 8 teachers and 668 students in the Lutheran establishment; and 11 Mohammedan schools, 7 of which are of the Shiite or unsected kind, and the Sanitte persuasion, instructing in all 986 students.

There are 27 military colleges, all of which are under the direction of the Imperial army, the Grand Duke Alexander. They are superintended by 865 professors, and are frequented by 8,090 students.

In addition there are 10 naval schools, with 3,920 students, under the charge of 337 teachers.

The Minister of the Finances has 55 schools belonging to his department. He employs 401 teachers, and instructs 9,773 students.

The foundations of the Empress Maria are 40 in number—30 schools for girls, with 650 teachers and 5,377 pupils, and 10 for boys, with 80 masters and 1,299 pupils.

There are two schools of civil engineering, with 85 professors and 416 students; two law schools, with 38 professors and 501 students; and three schools appertaining to the Post Office Department, with 93 professors and 591 students, and six institutions under the direction of the Secretary of State, with 96 professors and 993 students.

These are all probably instructed in the Russian language. We do not forget an institution devoted to the teaching of the Oriental languages, with 30 professors and 207 students.

There are 26 agricultural schools, with 124 teachers and 1,501 students; and 2,696 village schools in the domain of the Crown, with 2,743 teachers, and giving instruction to 14,044 males and 4,843 females.

Thus it appears that in Russia 257,597 young persons are receiving instruction of some kind from 14,577 teachers—at the rate of one teacher to 17½ pupils—a far more favorable proportion to the student, than the population of Russia proper affords; they are instructed in trades, so that only one individual in 220 receives the benefits of instruction. Nevertheless, 250,000 well-educated young persons, dispersed each year in the different quarters of that huge empire, cannot fail to gradually leave their mark upon the national character in good time.

We know more about the quantity than the quality of these schools, as Russian publicists have seldom any thing to say on the subject; but it is generally admitted that the military institutions are of the highest order. The agricultural school of the Imperial domain is said to be admirably managed, and is under the immediate supervision of Nicholas. Two hundred and fifty peasants are thoroughly instructed in theoretical and practical cultivation, and are then sent to model farms in various parts of the country to set a reforming example to the neighboring peasants. Four years, and the student is divided into three periods. In the first year the boys are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and surveying; in the second, grammar, mathematics, and the elements of agriculture; and during the third and fourth, agricultural science, and the practical application of it.

These schools are well theoretically, and mechanics. Besides these, however, they are instructed in trades which may be useful to the farmer, such as tailoring, shoemaking, cabinetmaking, cooperage, blacksmithing, and carpenter's work, and in the construction of agricultural machines. A foundry, a brickyard, a pottery, a tannery, a candle and soap factory, and a windmill are attached to each. It is not required that each student shall pursue all these branches. The teachers are to judge of the aptitude of each pupil, and to direct him accordingly; but every one upon leaving the establishment is expected to possess thorough acquaintance with the general principles and practice of agriculture, and a competent knowledge of the collateral branches.

At the last exposition of the agricultural products of Russia, at St. Petersburg, the various objects sent in by this school excited great attention. The teachers in 1829, in 1839, and in 1849, were sent to exhibit for exhibition in the World's Fair of London in 1851.

Public instruction was commenced in Russia as far back as in the early part of the seventeenth century, but it was not until the time of Peter the Great that it began to take the shape and direction it has since assumed. In 1724 he founded the Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg; he had already established the first naval school in 1703, and the first medical school in 1713. The Academy of Moscow, the oldest in Russia, and in 1757 the Academy of Arts. Catherine II. founded the College of Moscow in 1763, the College of St. Petersburg in 1772; and in 1783 the Russian Academy, which now forms the scientific basis of the Academy of Sciences.

Paul established in 1793 the Academy of Surgery and Medicine. In 1802 Alexander created the office of Minister of Public Instruction, animated by a desire to raise the moral level of his people. In 1804 he founded an engineer's school and two universities—that of Kasan and Charkov—and continued until the end of his reign to give great attention to the subject of education. Among other foundations which the Russians owe to him are the school for the deaf and dumb, the orphan asylum of Gatchina, and the College of Midwives.

Under Nicholas public education in Russia has taken a new start, and a new direction, and primary schools under Government supervision have been established throughout the empire.

[As pertinent to the above, we add the subjoined communication from an American officer of rank, which has been lying on our table some weeks.

Nat. Int.]

MESSRS. GALE & SEATON: The eminently beneficent system of Russia governing the extension of her dominions is not properly understood and appreciated in the United States.

The abolition of death as a punishment, except in rare cases, and the substitution of exile to Siberia, was the result alike of a sound policy and of the dictates of humanity. By it the ends of justice have been more certainly obtained, and the rugged and old Siberia has been made the happy homes of thousands of happy subjects. Every traveller in Siberia will testify to the existence of smiling villages and comfortable homesteads that are exhibited on all sides, from Behring's Straits to St. Petersburg.

The extension of the dominions of Russia, judging from its past effects, will be as productive of great benefits to christianity, civilization, and commerce as has been and will be the extension of the limits of the United States.

The missions of the United States and Russia are clearly indicated, and no combination of Powers are likely to avert their fulfillment.

May the flight of the Russian and American eagles be continued until christianity, civilization, and conservatism encircle the earth!

NATIONAL HOTEL, SEPT. 30, 1853. W. H. C.

[Accompanying the above was the annexed note, which, as explanatory of the writer's motive, it may not be inappropriate also to insert:]

Major — offers the above brief article for publication as an offset to the abuse, the result of ignorance, which American writers and talkers heap upon Russia and her institutions. These institutions and policy are just as necessary to the good government of the people of Russia, in their present condition, as are ours to our own people, and there is not in Europe a wiser or more beneficent sovereign than the Czar NICHOLAS; there is certainly not one who has been so consistent in his friendship to the United States.

The results of Chinese naval expeditions are important. At the last fight six tons of powder were burnt, two hundred guns and brass kettles badly beaten, a very great smoke created, resulting in a very bad smell; ninety-one pigsties exploded, a new record, four hundred and sixty-two celestially spotted and speckled, and nobody hurt. A tremendous victory was claimed on both sides, and the reports of the battle, printed in vermilion ink, upon yellow silk, were ceremoniously deposited in the imperial archives. Awful people, these Mongolians!—*Courant*.

THE KOSSUTH LETTERS IN THE N. Y. TIMES.

Correspondence of the Boston Traveller.

CONSTANTINOPLE, SEPT. 5, 1853.

I have read in the New York Weekly Times six letters, of a series denominated "Democratic Letters on European Matters and American Policy," which I denominated also the Kossuth Letters. I do not know who is the author, but I see much internal evidence that it is Kossuth himself, though this is a matter of secondary importance. The letters themselves are very un-American, and I think very incendiary. How much influence they are likely to have on that portion of our population now fashionably called "Young America" I do not know; but as far as their influence goes it must be deleterious. I am myself no politician, and I think I have no party prejudice, certainly not in this matter; and yet I am proud of being an American, and I love my country's free institutions, and admire the wisdom of Washington in regard to not meddling in the affairs of other nations. These letters have but one object. Their whole aim is, as Kossuth's ever was, to stir up Americans to interfere in the politics of Europe. I do not think this foreigner, whoever he is, for his efforts in this cause. I do not thank him for his ungracious sneers at our country for not all considering its wise policy of non-interference; nor for all the reproach he so uncourtaneously attempts to cast upon the present Administration. But what I had particularly in view in taking up my pen at the present time was to state some instances of his great unscrupulousness in his statement of facts, and the sophistical manner in which he attempts to twist every thing so as to make it suit his side and establish the one point at which he is aiming.

In letter number five (published in the Times of July 30) he asserts that "the Cumberland frigate, Commodore Stringham, which brought Mr. Marsh to Constantinople, with surprising and widely needless ostentation, fired the guns of the flag ship of the American Republic to honor of and salute the Austrian minister." It happens that "Cumberland" frigate did not bring Mr. Marsh to Constantinople, but the corvette "Levant;" though this is an unimportant point. The statement that the Cumberland frigate fired a salute in honor of the Austrian Minister is entirely false, though in certain other circumstances it might have been true, and yet not one of the evils result from it he pretends. The new Austrian Minister was brought to Constantinople by a steamer of war, and naval etiquette requires that on the arrival of a new man-of-war in a port where similar vessels of other nations are lying they should fire a salute, which of course is returned. In obedience to this law or custom of nations, Commodore Stringham saluted the Austrian flag on the arrival of this vessel in this port. This salute had no reference to the Ambassador, and would have been equally called for if there had been none on board. And what great political meaning or bearing had it in the eyes of the Turks or other classes of people here? Why, just none at all. The Turks infer from it that the American Government had instructed Mr. Marsh "to evince marked regard for Austria."

There never was a greater piece of nonsense in the world than such a supposition; and what is more, the writer of the letter in question must have known it was nonsense when he penned it; but it subserved his purpose, and he hoped to gain capital by it, and so he put it forth in this letter. Every man, woman, and child in Constantinople knows what the meaning of such a salute is. It has nothing in the world to do with politics; nor is it the least indication of what the real state of feeling is between the two nations. It is a mere form of etiquette, like touching or lifting the hat, which custom demands should be scrupulously observed, unless diplomatic relations are actually suspended. Had Mr. De Bock, the Austrian Minister, actually gone on board the Cumberland to make a visit, then at his leaving he would have been entitled to a salute according to his rank. But no such thing occurred, and even if it had, the dimstrous results that the author of these letters so lengthily and so laudably deplores could never have followed. One would suppose that the sound of the booming guns of the Cumberland had been heard all over Europe, and that it was as the death knell of European liberty! This is to me the veriest bombast, and I fully believe it was nothing less to the person himself who wrote it.

The famous Kossuth case occurred in Smyrna during the last days of June, and when the fourth of July came the American consuls, Mr. Lewis and an Austrian brig of war in the harbor of Smyrna were drawn up in battle array, almost ready for a fight, and yet, diplomatic relations not having been suspended, the Austrian, at mid-day of the fourth, as in duty bound, raised the American flag at mast-head, and saluted it with twenty-one guns, in honor of our great national feast. Now, the Turks and the Democrats of Europe must consider Austria, by this act, as fully committed to republican institutions; far more so, indeed, by saluting the day of our national independence than Com. Stringham committed our Government to the despots of Europe by the common, every-day occurrence of exchanging salutes with an Austrian vessel of war. In the harbor of Constantinople such salutes are so frequent as to attract no attention and excite no inquiry. So this foreign correspondent of the Times has made a great ado about nothing. He has written a very wordy letter, but it is all smoke.

But I must call your attention to a very singular revelation made by the author of this letter. He says that certain "known and recognised Democratic leaders" in Europe made "specific proposals to the Porte," designed, in a case of war, to "open a field for their activity," and the Porte was assured by them that "her acceptance of the offers of the Democracy would be precisely the surest means of gaining the active support and assistance of the United States!" That is, in case of war with Russia, the Turks were assured of the "active support and assistance of the United States," provided they would come into an arrangement with these self-constituted Democratic leaders. And the Turks seemed to have been just on the point of being greatly excited with the prospect of having so powerful an ally as the United States, when behold the guns of Commodore Stringham, being charged only with powder and wadding, for a harmless salute, in an instant blew their hopes all off in smoke, and scattered them to the winds.

And who are these Democratic leaders who come to the Porte clothed with authority to offer the "active support and assistance" of our Government? Why, I suppose the writer of this letter may be one—perhaps the chief himself. And did he not know he was telling the Turks an impudent lie when he gave them an assurance so ridiculous? Did he soberly suppose that he was the authorized mouth of the United States Government, and that on his pledge, or without his pledge, America was really going to support Turkey actively against Russia in the event of a struggle? If he did, I should say he is a fit candidate for a lunatic asylum. If he did not, he is a false and unprincipled intriguer. In either case, his communications in the Times are unworthy of the attention and confidence of American patriots. This is the point to which I wish to come; and so farewell. V. S. A.

STATISTICS OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The records at the office of the Inspector of the city of New York supply the following statistics of births, marriages, and deaths in that city during the quarter ending on the 30th ultimo:

The deaths exceeded the births in the proportion of about seven to five, thus confirming the opinion of political economists that great cities would be depopulated if it were not for constant accessions from the rural districts. The details of sex and color during the quarter were as follows:

	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
White males	1,501	1,540	1,677
White females	1,492	1,540	1,677
Colored males	2,325	2,282	2,066
Colored females	2,209	1,619	2,823
Black males	2,248	1,619	2,823